

# New Americans in Shenandoah Valley, VA



State & Local

REFUGEE COUNCIL USA

## A Snapshot of Demographic and Economic Characteristics of Immigrants in the Region<sup>1</sup>

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, local leaders in communities across the country have been working tirelessly to ensure that all community members have access to the services and support they need. The immigrant population is both essential to our country's rapid response efforts and especially vulnerable to gaps in our social safety nets. Understanding this population will help better inform local leaders as they aim to implement inclusive emergency response policies.

### OVERVIEW

**32,309**

Immigrant Residents, 2018



**12,565**

Immigrants who were **Naturalized** U.S. Citizens, 2018



**Naturalized** Share of Immigrants, 2018

**2,567**

Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018<sup>2</sup>



Share of Immigrants who were Likely **Refugees**, 2018

**11,473**

**Undocumented** Immigrants, 2018



**Undocumented** Share of Immigrants, 2018

**1,305**

**DACA-Eligible** Immigrants, 2018



**DACA-Eligible** Share of Immigrants, 2018

### LANGUAGE

#### Top Five Languages Immigrants Spoke at Home Other than English

SPANISH **43.3%**

CHINESE **5.3%**

HINDI & RELATED **3.7%**

ARABIC **3.6%**

RUSSIAN **2.1%**

**25.0%** of immigrants, or **8,102** immigrants living in the region had limited English language proficiency. Among them, the top two languages spoken at home other than English were:

— SPANISH (**74.1%**)

— CHINESE (**6.5%**)

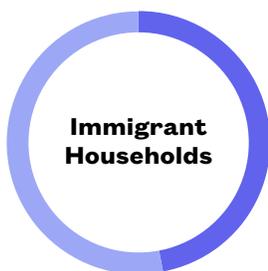
## FRONTLINE WORKERS

**Immigrants serve in essential industries and carry out vital roles that keep the country functioning.** In Shenandoah Valley, immigrants are working in frontline and essential industries during the Covid-19 crisis.

Number of Immigrants	Industry	Share of Workforce
1,644	FOOD PROCESSING	<b>28.6%</b>
2,241	RESTAURANTS & FOOD SERVICE	<b>15.6%</b>
1,404	HEALTHCARE	<b>5.7%</b>

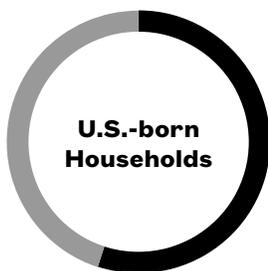
## HOUSING CONDITIONS

The COVID-19 economic upheaval has highlighted the need for stable housing.



### Among immigrant households in 2018...

- **46.5%** Owned their own Homes (5,724)
- **53.5%** were Renters (6,576)



### Among U.S.-born households in 2018...

- **68.9%** Owned their own Homes (120,138)
- **31.1%** were Renters (54,202)

1 Unless otherwise specified, data comes from 5-year samples of the American Community Survey from 2018 and figures refer to the Shenandoah Valley region in Virginia, including the Counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren.

2 New American Economy. 2017. "From Struggle to Resilience: The Economic Impact of Refugees in America."

## HEALTHCARE COVERAGE

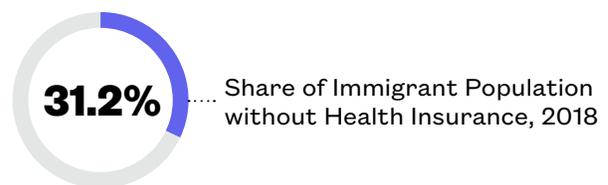
**Access to healthcare and medical services remains critical during this pandemic.**

# 53,170

Number of Residents without Health Insurance, 2018

# 10,071

Number of Immigrant Residents without Health Insurance, 2018



## ENTREPRENEURS

While all Americans are struggling to adapt to their new reality in a time of economic shutdown, **entrepreneurs in the region face severe challenges posed by the crisis.**

Number of Entrepreneurs	Industry	Share of Entrepreneurs who are Immigrants
3,119	GENERAL SERVICES <sup>3</sup>	<b>14.9%</b>
4,074	CONSTRUCTION	<b>10.5%</b>
4,600	PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES <sup>4</sup>	<b>9.1%</b>

3 General services include personal services (e.g. laundry services, barber shops, and repair and maintenance), religious organizations, social services, and labor unions.

4 Most of these industries include professions that require a degree or a license, such as legal services, accounting, scientific research, consulting services, etc.